

STAT



Senator Alan Cranston

4 August 1970

STATOTHR

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear



This is in followup of your earlier letter and my reply of July 27, 1970 concerning the situation in Indochina and reports on the use of mercenaries in Cambodia and possible CIA involvement.

CIA does not publicly comment on reports concerning its activities, whether the reports are true or false, favorable or unfavorable. On the assumption that it would be of interest to you, I am enclosing a pamphlet which spells out the statutes from which this policy flows.

Although public disclosure of CIA's activities may not be possible, I believe it is important to recognize that it is subject to close scrutiny and operates under the direction and control of the elected and appointed officials entrusted with the policymaking responsibilities in our government. As you are aware, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for some time now has been conducting hearings dealing precisely with the extent and form of Senate participation in our government's international undertakings.

Thank you for letting me have your views on this important matter.

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN.
THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO.
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
HAROLD E. HUGHES, IOWA

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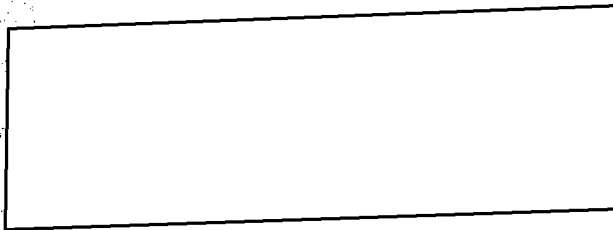
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT O. HARRIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

July 27, 1970

STATOTHR



Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed statement concerning the situation in Indochina.

I certainly share your concern for the matters raised and supported those efforts in the Senate to do away with our "mercenaries" in that area.

I am contacting the C.I.A. on this issue and asking them to respond to the issues discussed in the article. When I have received a reply from that agency I will be back in touch with you.

I am glad you took the time to contact me on this important matter and hope to have some information for you in the near future.

Sincerely,

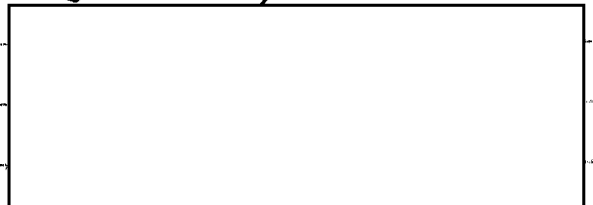
Alan Cranston

Senator Alan Cranston —

To the extent the attached is true, I find it shocking but, sadly, not surprising. The only way I know of to counter ~~the~~ something like this is public exposure — something (perhaps the only thing) the C.I.A. fears. Anything you can do to get the Foreign Relations Committee into this would help.

Fuck,

STATOTHR



US MERCENARIES TO REPLACE TROOPS

Monday the S.F. Chronicle had two front page reports on the war. One said that the US troops were all withdrawing from Cambodia. The other revealed that many mercenaries were passing through Hong Kong on their way to Cambodia. While the Nixon government loudly points to the troop withdrawals and pretends it marks the end of a "successful" invasion soldiers of fortune are being quietly sent in.

THE SENATE'S OPINION OF IT

The reports were so alarming that the Senate on Tuesday passed a resolution saying that no mercenaries were to be employed in Cambodia. It will be hard for the Senate to get Mr. Nixon to execute their decision. The CIA (which answers only to itself) is our mercenary recruitment agency. The Senate has a hard time finding out what the CIA is up to. The Senate learned only at the end of 1969 that the CIA had been using mercenaries for years in Laos under the cover of aid givers. Some mercenaries have already gone on to Cambodia from Hong Kong. Do you believe that a Senate resolution will be enough to bring them out?

THE COST OF IT

Newsweek reports mercenaries in Laos are paid \$1,000 a week and get one week's vacation in Taiwan for every four in the field. The Chronicle reports the \$1,000 a week figure is also the amount being paid the mercenaries being sent to Cambodia. The Nixon government cannot pay postal workers a living wage. Nixon vetoed hospital money. Nixon considered aid to schools inflationary. Foreign paid killers get \$1,000 a week plus 10 vacations per year.

THE FUTILITY OF IT

Mercenaries cannot be militarily effective in a war like this. One half million US troops has not been a large enough force in Vietnam. A few hundred or even thousand mercenaries will win us nothing. They will kill many people, cost a fortune, create a lot of futile agony, and in the end they will be forced to leave. In the Congo mercenaries killed, looted, and destroyed a great deal, but the Congolese finally chased them out. They were held prisoners for months and barely escaped execution. The Cambodian mercenaries have been recruited from the lists of Congo mercenaries.

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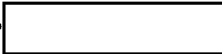
Repr. G. Robert Watkins

4 Aug. 1970

STATOTHR

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear



Thank you for your recent letter concerning the CIA, its functions and whether it has too much control.

I am enclosing a pamphlet which spells out the functions of CIA and the oversight exercised within both the Executive and Legislative branches.

As you will note, CIA is an operating, not a policy making, agency. The statute which established CIA specifically provides for its duties to be carried out under the direction of the National Security Council. The Council is chaired by the President and the Secretaries of State and Defense are included in its membership. Beyond this, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board is charged by the President to conduct a continuous review of CIA's activities. This Board is composed of eminent men from private life as you can see from the enclosed listing.

Four separate subcommittees in the Congress, two in each house, exercise oversight of CIA much as the activities of any other executive agency are reviewed by other congressional committees.

Although public disclosure of CIA's activities may not be possible, you can see that it is subject to close scrutiny and operates under the direction and control of the elected and appointed officials entrusted with the policy making responsibilities of our government.

I appreciate your writing to me concerning this matter.

G. ROBERT WATKINS
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTIES:
CHESTER AND WESTERN DELAWARE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1015 LONGWORTH
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

30 July, 1970

INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

SALLIE K. WEAVER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

VIRGINIA HUGGINS
JIM SPEAKMAN

Executive Registry

70-4099

Mr. Richard Helms,
Director of Central Intelligence,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Executive Office of the President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

STATOTHR

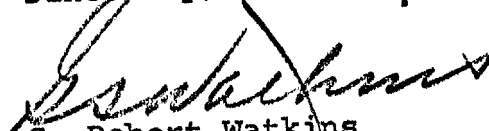
Dear Mr. Helms:

asked the following question:

"What is the basic function of the
CIA? Does it have too much control?"

I realize that any answer to the
second question is impossible, but if you can give
me some information to pass along to my
constituent so far as his first inquiry is concerned,
it will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


G. Robert Watkins
Member of Congress